

Wonders of Western India

BY WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

Suez, April 13, 1906. There is so much of interest in India that I find it difficult to condense all that I desire to say into the space which it seems proper to devote to this country. In speaking of the various cities, I have been compelled to omit reference to the numerous industries for which India is famed. Long before the European set foot upon the soil the Indians were famous for their skill in weaving, in carving and in brass. It was, in fact, the very wealth of India that attracted the attention of the western world and turned the prowess of merchant vessels toward the Orient. While India can claim that some of her arts have been lost since she has been under the tutelage of foreigners, enough remains to make every tourist a collector, to a greater or less extent, of attractive souvenirs.

Bombay is the center of the plain brass manufacture, and her bazaars are full of vases, trays, candlesticks, bowls, etc. Lucknow is noted for her silversmiths, but her products do not command so high a price as those of southern India. Delhi heads in ivory and wood carving, and one can find here the best specimens of this kind of work. Several of the addresses presented to the Prince of Wales upon his recent visit were encased in ivory, and some of them were studded with gems. Painting on ivory is also carried to a high state of perfection here, and sandalwood boxes can be found in all the stores.

At Agra one finds rugs woven in Turkish and Persian as well as in original designs. Agra is also renowned for its inlaid work, many of the designs of the Taj being copied. The Taj itself is reproduced in miniatures at prices ranging from \$1 up into the hundreds.

In all the cities of upper Indian Kashmir shawls may be secured. Kashmir itself being far north of the line of travel. These shawls are of goats' hair, and some of them are so delicate that, though two yards square, they can be drawn through a finger ring.

At Jaipore the chief industries which attract the attention of foreigners are enameling on gold and brass, the latter being the best known. Few who visit the bazaars can resist the temptation to carry away some samples of this ware, so graceful are the vessels and so skillful is the workmanship.

Jaipore, the first of the western cities and the only one of the native states that we visited, is deserving of some notice, partly because it gives evidence of considerable advancement and partly because the government is administered entirely by native officials. The maharajah is one of the most distinguished of the native princes and is a descendant of the famous Rajput line of kings. He lives in oriental style, has a number of wives, and elephants, camels and horses galore. He is an orthodox Hindu of the strictest type and drinks no water but the water of the Ganges. When he went to England to attend the coronation he chartered a ship, took his retinue with him and carried Ganges water enough to last until his return. He is very loyal to the British government and, in return, he is permitted to exercise over his subjects a power as absolute as the czar ever claimed. There is an English resident at his capital, but his council is composed of Indians, his judges are Indians, his military and naval officers, his schoolteachers are Indians and he has an Indian army. I had the pleasure of meeting one of the council and the head of the school system of the state, and found them men of fine appearance and high culture. The maharajah, in his state comparisons favorably with that in the states under British administration, and the graduates from the maharajah's college compete successfully in the examinations with the graduates from other colleges.

There is a beautiful palace at Jaipore which gives some idea of the luxury in which the Indian rulers lived. We returned from this trip late in the evening when the peacocks were going to roost, and nearly every tree contained one or more of these magnificent birds. These were apparently wild, and their numbers and beauty recalled the fact that the peacock is India's royal bird; and it is not an inappropriate symbol of the pomp and magnificence of the oriental kings.

Eight degrees here to the respect for life taught in the Hindu scriptures has filled India to excess with useless birds and animals. The crows and kites are a nuisance. It is no uncommon thing to see a vendor of peas and sweets carrying his wares on his head and waving a stick above it to scare off the birds. Sometimes an attendant follows the vendor and protects him from the birds, but in spite of all precautions they get their toll. The crows often come to the doors and windows of the hotel and inquire whether you have any food to spare, and sparrows and other small birds occasionally glean crumbs from the table. At Jaipore we saw myriads of pigeons being fed in the streets, and monkeys—they are everywhere. The jungles of the tropical countries are not more thronged with them than the road sides of some parts of India. About half way between Jaipore and Bombay there were especially numerous, and as we rode along on the train we saw them singly, in groups and in mass meetings. Here, too, we saw herds of antelopes, scarcely frightened by the train. Attention has frequently been called to the fact that the Hindus' aversion to a dead animal is based upon the fact that millions of cattle dying of starvation which if killed earlier might have saved thousands of human beings from starving.

A night's ride from Jaipore brought us to Abu road, from which by pony carts, called tongas, we ascended to Mt. Abu, sixteen miles away. The journey is made over a well-kept mountain road which climbs to a height of about 5,000 feet. While this mountain resort draws many Europeans because of its altitude, two famous Jain temples are the lodestones that attract tourists.

These temples were built by merchant princes in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, and the fact that one of them cost more than \$5,000,000 shows that trade had reached a commanding position in those days. One of the temples was built by two brothers and the guide tells of a tradition that these brothers, finding their money, decided to bury it, but on digging in the earth they found more, and considering it a gift from the gods, built this temple. The buildings are not large, and seen from the outside are disappointing, but the carvings, the pillars and vaulted ceilings are of the purest white marble, brought from no one knows where, and every inch of the surface is covered with figures of gods, human beings, animals, flowers and fowls. The artists utilized the things with which the people were most familiar. Here a frieze of elephant heads, the trunks joined, there a frieze of geese, another of tigers or monkeys, and another of men in armor fighting; and a third frieze of flowers. The variety is endless and the workmanship perfect. While the panels and friezes and ceilings differ so much from each other, the architecture is so harmonious, but form a harmonious whole. The Mohammedan conquerors mutilated some of the figures because of their hatred of idolatry, but under Lord Curzon's administration the work of restoration was begun, it was impossible to find marble like the original.

Around these temples are numerous shrines, each containing a seated figure very much resembling Buddha. The Jains are a sect of the Hindus and their temples are renowned for their beauty. This temple is visited by a large number of pilgrims every year, some of whom were chanting their prayers while we were there.

Another night's ride, and we were in Bombay, and what a luxury to find a hotel conducted upon the American plan. The Taj Mahal is the finest hotel in the Orient, and would be a credit to any city in our country. It was built by Mr. Tata, a rich man who planned it more from public than from private considerations.

We found the plague increasing in virulence, 300 having died in the city the day before we arrived. Bombay has suffered terribly from this scourge, 24 per cent having perished from it in the last few years. Two years ago the American consul, Hon. William T. Fee, lost his daughter and came near losing his wife by this dread disease, and two of the European consuls have recently had to leave their homes because of deaths among their native servants. With so many dying in a single city (and 10,000 a week in the entire country), India would seem an unsafe place to visit, and yet one would not know except for the newspapers that an epidemic was raging, so little does it affect business or social life. There is now in use a system of inoculation which promises to materially lessen the mortality from this disease. A serum is prepared in which the venom of serpents is the chief ingredient, and this hypodermically administered, has been found almost a sure preventive. While the physicians are employing this remedy, the rat-catchers are also busy and about a thousand rodents are captured a day. It has been demonstrated that the rat not only spreads the disease, but carries a flea that imparts it by its bite.

Bombay is the Manchester of India, and the smokestacks of its many cotton factories give to the city a very business-like appearance. These mills are largely owned by Indians and operated by Indian capital.

On an island near Bombay is one of the most frequented of the rock-hewn temples. They have at Jaipore a temple is chiseled out of the solid rock, great pillars being left to support the roof. It is about 120 feet square by 17 in height and contains a number of figures of heroic size. These figures are carved from the walls and represent various gods and demons. The Portuguese Christians, several centuries ago, showed their contempt for these gods of stone by firing their cannon into the temple. While some of the pillars were battered down and some of the carvings mutilated, enough remains to show the impressiveness of this ancient place of worship.

No one can visit Bombay without becoming interested in a religious sect, the members of which are known as Parsees. They are few in numbers, probably not exceeding a hundred thousand in the world, more than half of whom live in or near Bombay. Theirs is the religion of Zoroaster, and they contest with the Christians for the honor of the first believers in one God. Their sacred books, the Zend-Avesta, are very ancient, and the origin of their religion is placed anywhere from 700 B. C. to 3,000 B. C. They not only believe in one God, but they believe in a heaven and a claim to have impressed their ideas upon the Israelites when the latter were in bondage in Babylon. The Parsees see in the world, as well as in the human being, a continuing conflict between right and wrong, and they regulate their conduct by a high ethical system. When the Moslems swept over Persia and made it one of the stars in Islam's crown, a band of Parsees preferred migration to conversion, and, like our pilgrims, sought a home in a new country. In Bombay they have preserved their identity for some nine centuries and have made themselves a potent influence in every department of the city's activity. They have their marriage ceremony, their temples and their funeral rites. They have sometimes been called fire worshippers and sun worshippers, but they simply regard fire as the purest thing known and therefore accept it as a symbol of the invisible God. Fire is kept burning in their temples, and when a new temple is to be dedicated, fire is collected from the homes of persons engaged in the principal industries and occupations, and while this mingled fire is used to kindle another fire and this new fire another until the ninth fire is kindled, and this becomes the altar fire. Each fire is kindled without coming in contact with the former one.

The Parsees have a peculiar form of burial, which has come down from prehistoric times. In Malabar hill, in the suburbs of Bombay, overlooking the sea, in the midst of a beautiful garden, are their Towers of Silence. These are large circular buildings, 25 or 30 feet high and without a roof. Within the wall is a circular platform sloping inward to a well in the center. When a Parsee dies he is prepared for burial and borne to this garden. After the last rites have been performed and the relatives and friends have taken farewell, the body is carried within the tower by men appointed for the purpose and placed naked upon the platform. As soon as the corpse-bearers

depart, the waiting vultures of which several hundred make their home in the garden) swoop down upon it and do not rise until the bones are bare. The skeletons, sun-bleached, are washed by the rains into the pit in the center, where rich and poor, conspicuous and obscure, mingle their dust together. Every sanitary precaution is taken and a fixed rate of five rupees is charged to all alike, the money being advanced from a burial fund where the family cannot afford to meet the expense. The Parsees of Bombay, though they wear a dress peculiar to themselves, are of all the Indians most like the Europeans and Americans. We were in one Parsee home, and the furniture, the pictures and the library were such as could be found in the average home in our country. Statistics show that the percentage of education among the Parsees is very much higher than among any other class of inhabitants, and the women share the educational advantages with the men.

The well-to-do Parsees have been conspicuous in philanthropy, endowing colleges, hospitals and other charities. While they are counted among the obscure, it is not true that they are also among the government's faults. Sir Pherosha M. Mehta, the leading Parsee orator, is prominent in the national congress movement. At a reception given at the hotel, and on other occasions, we had an opportunity to meet a number of Parsees, men and women, priests and laymen, and found them abreast with the times and alive to the problems with which the world is wrestling today.

I cannot close this article without mentioning the increasing presence of American influence in Bombay. An American minister, Dr. Mell, is pastor of the principal Methodist church, and the American Consulate has a large and largely attended school for boys and girls in the city. Many of the students were taken from famine-stricken homes and are being educated with American money. There is also here a school for the deaf and dumb, and an engagement, where the students are not only taught to read and write, but trained in the industries for which they are fitted.

I do not apologize for mentioning from time to time the institutions which altruistic Americans have scattered over the Orient. If we cannot boast that the sun never sets on American territory, we can find satisfaction in the fact that the sun never sets upon American philanthropy. If the boom of our cannon does not follow the orb of day in his daily round, the grateful thanks of those who have been the beneficiaries of American generosity form a chorus that encircles the globe.

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State Society

Continued from Page Three.

ried by Bishop L. C. Kjar at the residence of the bride's mother, Mrs. Caroline Nelson, Wednesday evening. A number of relatives and friends of both families were present. Both are well and favorably known in this city.

E. T. Parry and wife were Wales visitors during the week, attending the funeral services of a relative of Mrs. Parry.

Mrs. Annie Anderson Enoch was here during the week visiting with her daughter, Mrs. William D. Livingston.

LOGAN.

An elaborate social function of the past week was the lawn social given on Friday evening by Mr. and Mrs. William Edwards, in honor of their daughter, Mrs. Annie Flanagan of Rexburg, Ida. About 150 guests attended and the evening was delightfully spent in various forms of social amusement.

W. W. Caskey of Pueblo, Colo., is here on a visit to friends. His daughter Nettie accompanies him.

Professor Osborne Whitson of the L. D. S. university at Salt Lake, and Miss Rose Homer of the Brigham Young college of this city, were married in this city on Wednesday, and before their departure from here were entertained by some of their friends.

Professor and Mrs. L. A. Ostien are in Minnesota on a visit to friends. They expect to return in a week.

George W. Ritter of Salt Lake City visited in Logan the first of the week as the guest of his brother, B. F. Ritter.

J. W. Crawford left the city the week for New York and other eastern points. His trip combines business with pleasure.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Carter of Reno, Nev., are visiting friends in Logan.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Clark entertained on Thursday evening in honor of their daughter, Mrs. Emmett of Cheyenne, Wyo., who is visiting here.

W. L. Field of Weston, Ida., spent part of the week as the guest of Logan friends.

Mrs. Hannah Jensen of Pocatello, left for home this week after an extended visit here as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. E. Peaks.

Misses D. Graff, Martha Fisher, Raymond and Master Charles Fleming, left for Berkeley, Cal., this week. They will spend the summer there.

Miss Ruth E. Moench of the A. C. faculty returned the first of the week from Columbia University, where she spent the past year in studying.

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Lafont visited this week at Twin Falls, Ida.

Evan Jones started the first of the week on a three months' visit to Wales, his native land.

Misses Dora and Marian Taylor of Hood River, Ore., returned to their home this week after a long stay in California.

W. J. Kenman of Butte, Mont., is here on a visit to friends.

Arthur L. Bain of Woodbridge, Vt., is visiting relatives in Logan.

AMERICAN FORK.

The social event of the week was the strawberry and ice cream social given by the Commercial club Thursday night at the club rooms. About thirty members and their ladies were present. Cards and games furnished the amusements for the evening. An impromptu program consisting of music, songs and speeches was rendered. Strawberries and cream, and ice cream and cake were served at 11 o'clock.

Dr. and Mrs. Holden and son Harry of Cheyenne, Wyo., returned to their home after spending part of the past two or three summers in American Fork.

Mrs. Harriet Lee of Springfield is visiting in American Fork, the guest of her sister, Mrs. Mattie McTaggart.

Mr. and Mrs. George Storrs went to Lake Shore Friday to attend the wedding reception of Claude Burch and Miss Annie Ferguson, who were married in the Salt Lake temple Wednesday. Mr. Burch is a grandson of Mr. Storrs.

Quite a number of American Forkers attended the picnic at Chillum's on Friday. The occasion was the opening of their new store and ice cream and cake were served during the entire day.

Miss Lorraine Hyde of Salt Lake is here visiting, the guest of Mrs. W. S. Needham.

About 100 people from American Fork accompanied the excursion of the Eagles to Lagoons Thursday.

Miss Madge Whitling of Mapleton is in American Fork for a couple of weeks.

Dr. Heber Robinson, who has lately graduated from a Chicago medical college, has purchased the practice of Dr. Kinley and will locate here. Mr. Robinson is an American Fork boy. Dr. Kinley has been removed to Provo, where he has a position as instructor in medicine at the U. of T. this season.

Mrs. George Tyng and Mrs. Charles Tyng left Thursday morning for the mine in American Fork canyon. They will spend part of the hot summer in the cool of the mountains.

Miss Effie Howe of Provo spent Thursday and Friday in American Fork.

Albert Yancy is down from the railroad camp near St. Anthony, Ida., for a short visit with his parents.

Mrs. E. H. Stout spent the fore part of the week in Salt Lake City.

George F. Shelley of Shelley, Ida., is visiting here the first part of the week. Mr. Shelley formerly resided in American Fork.

Preparations are being made for a big celebration here on the Fourth of July. A number of novel features are being arranged for the morning including a game of baseball with a grand display of fireworks in the evening. All to conclude with a grand ball in the middle of the night.

Rev. and Mrs. Wildman Murphy leave an ice cream social at the chapel Friday night. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by a large crowd.

Miss Beulah Storrs of Provo spent part of the week here visiting relatives.

EUREKA.

George Chittie was in Payson last Monday. Miss Mabel Huffer is visiting relatives in Kansas.

Paul Wirthlin has returned from Payson, where he had been called on account of illness in his family.

Miss Nellie Sullivan returned last Monday from a visit to relatives in Park City.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Myers are visiting friends and relatives in Illinois.

B. N. C. Stott visited the capital last Tuesday.

Mrs. Dr. J. A. Hengel and her son George will leave today for Denver where they will remain during the summer months.

George Adams is down from Twin Falls, Ida., visiting friends and relatives.

Mrs. George Stott and her daughter, Miss Clara Stott, are making a short visit in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Al Tuckett and children returned Friday from a visit to Zion.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Hanks visited the capital Thursday.

Miss Rosa Hanks visited relatives in American Fork last week.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Hulsh spent last Sunday in Payson visiting relatives.

Miss Clara Stott and her daughter, Mrs. Leon Armer visited Zion last Thursday.

Rev. Mr. Parker was in the capital Thursday.

Mr. Dan Martin and Mrs. Martin and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pike were in Robinson last Tuesday evening attending the wedding of C. O. Robertson and Miss Nellie Hutchinson.

Miss Mary Gallagher, the Misses Annie and Maggie Berner are Rockwell, Ia., visiting relatives.

Misses Jessie Kelly returned last Monday evening from a visit to the capital.

Don Sullivan returned last Wednesday evening from Pioche, Nev., where he has been for the past two months.

Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Doay were visitors to Provo last Sunday.

Rev. Father O'Donohue is visiting in the capital.

Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Schuetter were among the visitors to Salt Lake Monday morning. Andrew Mitchell was called to Salt Lake City last Wednesday on account of the illness of his wife.

Miss Mattie Coombs returned to her home last Sunday after a visit to Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Hulsh.

Mr. and Mrs. George Moore and her sister, Mrs. Ward of Salt Lake City, visited relatives during the week in Eureka.

A very pretty wedding took place in Robinson Tuesday evening, when Charles O. Robertson and Miss Nellie Hutchinson were united in wedlock at the residence of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Hutchinson. A splendid banquet was given to about 120 guests and the home of the groom for a few days and will then take up their residence in Mammoth. Many guests from Eureka attended the ceremonies.

LEHI.

The society event of the week was the big two days' strawberry and ice cream festival given in the city pavilion Thursday and Friday for the benefit of the new tabernacle. A goodly sum was netted as probably ninety per cent of all the people patronized the affair.

The Daughters of the Revolution held their annual election Monday evening and elected the following officers: Regent, Miss May Lott; vice-regent, Mrs. Bert O'Hara; secretary, Mrs. Lydia Stoddard; treasurer, Miss Lulu Sohow; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Kate Kirkham.

W. C. Schrage and wife of Chicago, who have been spending a month with Mrs. Schrage's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Cavanaugh, returned to their home this morning.

Mr. Eli Bennett of Cedar Fork is spending a week the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Mary Linn.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Wells spent the past week with her parents in Salt Lake City.

Mrs. Lenore Boyden of Coalville is the

guest of her cousin, Mrs. Lydia Stoddard. Ernest, South and Miss Edith Longhust were married in the Salt Lake temple Wednesday. A crowd of Lehi friends planned a surprise supper for the young couple for the game evening, but were themselves surprised by the newly wedded pair not returning till next day.

Miss Hazel Barnes of LeGrand, Ariz., has been spending a week the guest of her sister, Mrs. J. W. Chilton. Returning home she will visit with her sister in Garland.

Major Webb is spending two weeks on the Strawberry river.

Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Taylor have gone to Nevada. Mr. Taylor will buy a car of horses in Ruby Valley and Mrs. Taylor will enjoy a brief visit with her sister at Banvard.

Mrs. Evelyn Peterson who has been ill for eight months, will be taken to the L. D. S. hospital this week and probably undergo an operation.

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